

Physics faculty engage in nuclear research

The U.S. Department of Energy awarded \$324,000 for the next three years to support research by faculty members and students in the NGCSU Department of Physics. This is the fourth three-year award from the DOE to Dr. Richard M. Prior, professor of physics and principal investigator, working with co-investigator Dr. Mark C.



Drs. Richard Prior and Mark Spraker

Spraker, associate professor of physics. The latest award brings the total DOE funding at NGCSU to \$892,000.

Prior has collaborated with Duke University Professor Henry Weller and the radiative capture group at the Triangle Universities Nuclear

Laboratory at Duke since 1990. Spraker conducted research at TUNL for 18 months as a post-doctoral research associate, joining the North Georgia faculty in 1997.

The Duke laboratory is the largest university-based nuclear physics lab in the United States. Prior and Spraker are two of about 75 researchers working on experimental and theoretical projects with nuclear energy applications.

“We have developed a new series of experiments at very low beam energies, using the high intensity atomic beam polarized ion source,” Prior said. “More recently, we have been working on developing the data acquisition facilities at the High-Intensity Gamma-Ray Source at the Duke Free Electron Laser Laboratory and taking data at that facility.”

Spraker has been heavily involved in both the

(Continued on page 3)



MILITARY MEMORABILIA: On April 23 retired U.S. Army Col. Ben Hamilton with his wife Dibba gave his father’s officer saber to the university. Cols. Billy Wells and Tom Palmer officially received the gift. U.S. Army Col. Raymond Hamilton, who died in 1972, taught military science and tactics at North Georgia Agricultural College from 1926 to 1930. Hamilton designed the cadet corps patch worn by today’s military students. He served in both world wars during his 37-year Army career and became recognized within military circles as an expert in infantry weaponry. His recommendations led to many improvements for front-line soldiers, including more sophisticated weapons and modes of transportation on the battlefield. North Georgia’s Col. Raymond C. Hamilton Rifle Range is named after the soldier and on display there are some of his military mementos.



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION: Rep. Charles Norwood, R-Ga., was a guest at the 100th annual Military Ball on April 25 in the Gainesville Civic Center. Fifty-seven military seniors were recognized at the event including Vincent Duvall Jr. and Ryan

Smith, standing with the ninth district representative. The senior class presented a slide show, which in part commemorated those who left school to serve on active military duty. Brig. Gen. William Nesbitt, commander of the Georgia Army National Guard, also attended.

Campus in Action

Dr. Thomas Austenfeld and **Dr. Tanya Bennett**, language and literature, attended the conference "Stepping Up to the Plate in Diversity Education," sponsored by Kennesaw State University. They jointly delivered a paper, "Begin Here: Introducing African American Literature into General Education" on April 26.

Dr. Marc Jason Gilbert, history, presented a paper titled "Drunk on Empire: Alcohol, Opium, the Indian National Congress and the Raj" at a conference on "Drugs and Empire" held at the University of Strathclyde in Galsgow, Scotland, April 9-13. The paper will form a chapter of a book based on the presentations at the conference.

Dr. Clayton Grant and **Dr. Kim Melton**, business administration, presented the paper, "Gender Discrimination in Retirement: A Review," at the annual meeting for the Society of Business, Industry and Economics on April 15 in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

Dr. Clayton Grant, business administration, published the article "Is Affirmative Action Dead or Simply Adjusting to the Changing Legal Environment?" in the spring 2003 issue of the *Journal of Business, Industry and Economics*.

Dr. Kim Melton, business administration, was elected to the Board of Directors of the Girl Scouts of Northeast Georgia. The Northeast Georgia Council serves more than 5,000 girls in 25 counties.

Dr. Grace Newsome and **Dr. Marina Slemmons**, nursing, presented their research work titled "Clinical Outcome Evaluation: Competency-Based Instrument Development" at the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner's annual conference in Philadelphia, Pa., on April 3-6. **Dr. Toni Barnett** and **Dr. Ann Summers**,

nursing, did a poster presentation of their research titled "Daring to Care: Change in Venue" at the conference.

Dr. Kent Poff, business administration, presented two papers at the annual meeting of the Society of Business, Industry and Economics in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., on April 14. The first paper, "The Surprising Effect Of Changes In The Capital Gains Tax On Different Types of Firms," examined the change in effective tax rates when the capital gains rate changes. The other paper,

"Tax Neutrality, Free Speech and 501(c)(3)," discussed limits on political activity of tax-exempt organizations.

Dr. Jeff Sommers, history, delivered presentations on April 9-10 at Lewis & Clark State College. The presentations surveyed the history of the United States' involvement in the Middle East and Central Asia, and the euro and U.S. dollar as instruments of foreign policy. On April 11, Sommers was featured in an interview regarding energy policy on KUOI radio at the University of Idaho.



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION: The European Union Center of the University System of Georgia was selected to receive one of five inaugural ACE/AT&T awards for "Technology as a Tool for Internationalization." The EU Center is co-directed by Dr. Brian Murphy, professor of political science at NGCSU, pictured on the e-learning monitor moderating a discussion between several USG classes and Belgian Ambassador to the United

States Frans van Daele on April 11. Dr. Frank Butler, vice chancellor for academic affairs for the USG, will accompany Murphy on May 20 to Washington, D.C. to officially receive the award. The award recognizes the EU Center's transatlantic, Web-based certificate program in European Union studies. Murphy also serves as director of the certificate program that in 1999 won the Chancellor's Award for Collaborative Excellence. This innovative undergraduate program allows students from Georgia and Europe to take courses together via the Internet, with instruction provided by both Georgia and European faculty, creating a virtual classroom on the Web. More than 50 USG students are currently enrolled in the certificate program.

North Georgia students reach out to students in Lumpkin County

Through leadership grant money, North Georgia students had the opportunity this spring to tutor children in the Lumpkin County School System in grades K-8. Seven NGCSU students tutored more than 35 Lumpkin students before and after the children's school day.



Dr. David Morris

"I realized a need for tutors in our Lumpkin County School System," said Dr. David Morris, assistant professor of business administration and coordinator of the tutoring program. "I contacted the Lumpkin County Family Connections program which agreed that there was a real shortage of people to work with children in our schools."

The North Georgia students assisted the children in areas of need as identified by the child's teacher, including reading, math and social sciences.

The Lumpkin County School Board's Family Connections Program selected children who need extra academic help and support beyond the classroom.

"Often these children have very few – if any – positive role models," said Morris. "The biggest difference our students have made in these children's lives is the encouragement and friendship they were able to provide. Our students did help these children in their school work. However, the most lasting difference is the mentoring aspects."

Prior to the tutoring sessions, Morris and the Lumpkin County Family Connections program provided training in tutoring and mentoring for the NGCSU students.

"I hope that we can expand the program next year to provide this important service to our schools for the entire school year and also get a larger number of students," said Morris. 🏡

Grant funds nuclear research

(Continued from page 1)

radiative capture measurements and the HIGS project. The work has resulted in more than 20 physics journal publications in which Prior was a co-author and in about half of those Spraker was also a co-author.

The physics professors are able to spend two months each summer conducting research at Duke and travel to professional meetings and to the laboratory for short research trips during the academic year.

More than 10 NGCSU students have worked as research assistants over the past decade, including Brent Perdue, now a graduate student at Duke, and Matthew Amthor, this year's Outstanding Physics Graduate at North Georgia. The student assistants work on data reduction and calculations on campus and travel to Duke to assist in data acquisition. Three NGCSU undergraduates presented papers the past three years at national meetings of the American Physical Society.

For additional information on the research projects at TUNL, visit www.tunl.duke.edu 🏡

NGCSU hosts 'Ride for Kids'

For a second consecutive year, North Georgia will host the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation's Atlanta Ride For Kids "Celebration of Life." The event will culminate on June 1 on the drill field.

The Ride for Kids raises money for pediatric brain tumor research and participants ride on motorcycles, starting at North Point Mall in Alpharetta and ending on the NGCSU campus. Last year more than 1,500 motorcyclists participated and approximately \$300,000 was raised to support the research.

The coordinators for the Atlanta Ride For Kids are seeking volunteers to help in the Dahlonega portion of the ride. To volunteer your time, contact Jim and Nona Unversaw at junversaw@evl.net or 770-641-7604.

For information on the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation and Ride For Kids, visit www.pbtfus.org or www.ride4kids.org.

the *Digest*

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Employee Service Awards

Employees were recognized on May 5 for their years of service to the university by President Nathaniel Hansford in the conference room in Price Memorial Hall.

20 Years of Service

Randy Dunn, John Mincey, Dr. Richard Oates and Arlene Thurman

15 Years of Service

Vaughn Grizzle, Mac McConnell and Dr. Jimmy Woods

10 Years of Service

Dr. John Broman, Donna Caldwell, Dr. Barry Friedman, Dr. Jill Hayes, Dr. Ralph Hitt, Earl Holman, Mark Howarth, Dr. Robert Laird, Judy McHan, Steve McHan, Lillian Mincey, Anna Sanford, Nancy Stahl, Linda Stover and Laura Whitaker-Lea

5 Years of Service

Syed Ahmed, Dr. Dlynn Armstrong-Williams, Velma Bails, Michele Barton, Dr. John Stuart Batchelder, Marvin Fauscett, Linda Fuller, Joyce Garmon, Mary Hand, Dr. Irene Kokkala, Errong Lu, Donald Mays, Emily McAfee, Marie McCallister, Maj. Richard Neikirk, 1st Sgt. Dean Papka, Mary Poland, Jill Rayner, Jeanne Samter, Nancy Schwartz, Dr. Mark Spraker, Mary Ann Westerfield, Dr. Linda Williams, Lyndll Yawn and Lynn Youngblood



30 Years of Service

Kim Grizzle
Delores Seabolt
Patricia Mulkey Moss

25 Years of Service

Dr. Peter McDonald
Kathy Adams
Laura Thacker
Willie Gordon
David Grizzle



BRAIN-COMPATIBLE LESSONS: Dr. Marcia L. Tate led the Distinguished Leader Conversation on April 29, as part of the School of Education's series of programs presented in partnership with the Principals' Center at Georgia State University and the Society for School-based Leadership at NGCSU. Tate, executive director of professional development for the DeKalb County School System and a national consultant with "Developing Minds Inc.," had her audience of area teachers and administrators on their feet and interacting with each other as they learned about instructional strategies that engage the brain.

Richardson receives advising award

Dr. Thomas W. Richardson, professor and head of the chemistry department at North Georgia, was selected an Outstanding Advising Certificate of Merit recipient in the Faculty Academic Advising category as part of the 2003 National Academic Advising Association's National Awards Program.

Richardson is one of 13 faculty advisors who received this award in the national competition this year.

This award honors individuals who have demonstrated an exceptional ability with the academic advising of students. The Faculty Academic Advising category includes individuals whose primary responsibility is teaching and who spend a portion of their time providing academic advising services to students.

Each year since 1983, the National Academic Advising Association, in cooperation with ACT, Inc., has honored individuals for their contributions in academic advising services to students at schools across the nation.

Richardson will be presented with the award in Dallas, Texas, during the annual NACADA National Conference in October.



Dr. Thomas Richardson